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# NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

German women are asked to give their gold wedding rings to aid in the defense of their fatherland and to wear, instead, rings made of iron.

The British War Office has decided that after certain changes have been made in Dublin Castle, the residence of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a Red Cross Hospital of about 250 beds shall be established there. There will be four house surgeons, eleven surgeons, two X-ray surgeons, a number of physicians and a large nursing staff attached to it.

The Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior, India, presented King George with forty-one motor ambulances, four motor-cars for officers, five motor trucks and repair wagons and ten motor-cycles. On the front of each was a brass plate stating that it was a gift from the Maharajah.

The Red Cross supplies the wounded passing through Boulogne from the front with cocoa, tea, soup, bread and butter, bacon, chocolate and cigarettes. In five weeks 30,000 men had been ministered to in this way.

The women of the American Church in Dresden have organized a branch of the Red Cross and made over 4000 articles of clothing for wounded German soldiers and for those in active service. The American Colony in Munich supports a Red Cross Hospital. A new American Hospital with fifty beds has been fitted up in a handsome villa on the Promenade Anglais, Nice, facing the sea. Every man leaving it to return to the front is fully fitted out with warm clothing from head to foot.

The Canadian Red Cross has contributed \$75,000 in money and paid for twelve motor ambulances as a gift to the British Red Cross. It has also given \$9500 to supply one coach in the Princess Christian's hospital train. It has given, besides, large numbers of blankets, about 10,000, and contributed vast quantities of socks and flannel shirts.

It also contributed over \$12,000 to equip a ward in the hospital opened in France by the St. John Ambulance Association. This is in addition to all that it gave for the comfort of the Canadian contingents.

Seventeen nurses of the Russian Red Cross have been killed on the field of battle or have died of wounds received while performing their duty. One of the latest, Mlle. Ludmilla Alexinsky, died of blood poisoning following a wound of the shoulder. She had been wounded in the hand during a previous battle. Once a doctor whom she was assisting was killed by a bursting shell and she herself was stunned. During one battle she was under fire for seventeen hours. An official eye-witness, attached to the staff of the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief, says that nurses have shown conspicuous bravery.

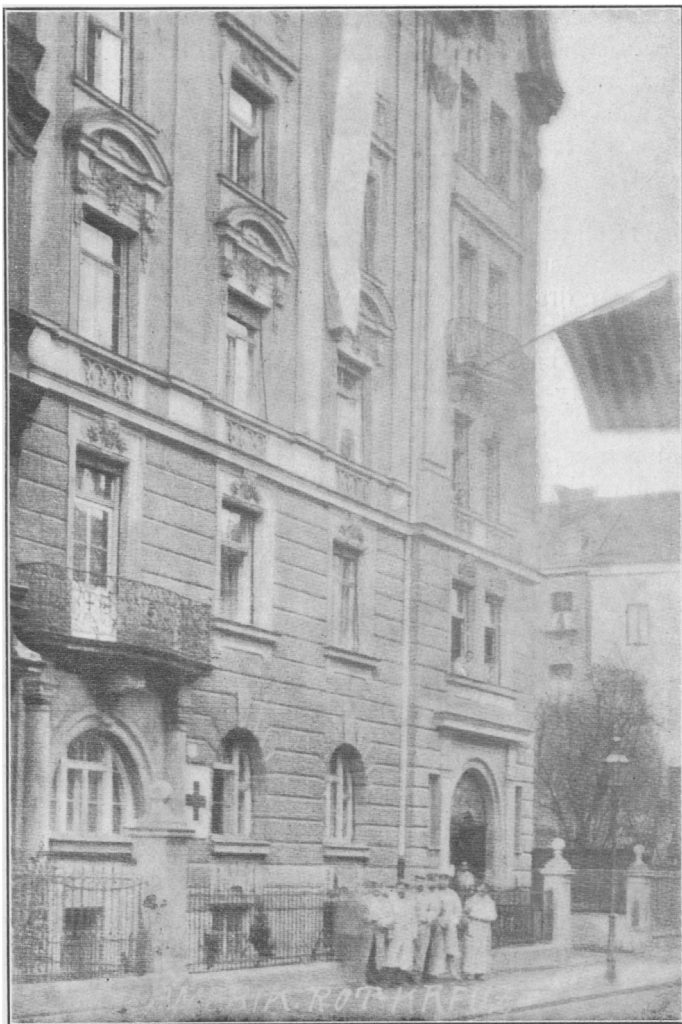
Japanese women and children are busily engaged in making warm clothing for the Belgians.

The Allies have received sympathy and assistance from unexpected sources. The Lama of Thibet ordered prayers for the success of the British arms. The Moslems of Freetown, West Africa, said, "Being powerless and feeble, we have no other means of helping our Great King in the war than that of prayer to Allah. This we have been daily offering since the outbreak of hostilities." The Blackfoot Indians assure the empire of their support and send \$1200 to be used in whatever way the government deems best.

An old French curé, near Nantes, has taken into his own house eight refugees, women and children. They came with the garments they had worn for five weeks, without a chance to change them and nothing to change them with. Their needs were supplied through the generosity of Americans in Paris.

Seventy Canadian nurses were sent to reinforce the nurses on duty at Salisbury Plain with the Canadian first contingent. The nurses who went at first had little to do. A hospital was established in France and all the nurses but twelve were sent to it. Illness following the bad weather made the reinforcement necessary. One hundred and three nurses will be sent with the second contingent.

Longleat, the princely home of the Marquis of Bath, where some of the original folios of Chaucer are preserved and where Queen Eliza-



AMERICAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL, MUNICH

beth was once a guest, is filled with wounded soldiers. Eaton Hall, near Chester, the residence of the Duke of Westminster, who is himself fighting in the trenches, has been placed at the disposal of the Red Cross Society and is filled with men. Chatsworth, the home of the Duke of Devonshire; Blenheim, of the Duke of Marlborough; Highclere Castle, where the Kaiser came a few years ago for rest when in ill health, have all been opened for the reception of wounded. There is not a single large country seat in England that has not been offered to the War Office for this purpose. In most cases the owners assume all the cost.

McGill College, Montreal, is establishing a hospital at the front. The medical and surgical staff is composed entirely of McGill graduates. The nurses are drawn from the Royal Victoria and Montreal General Hospitals, twenty-one from each institution. There were between eighty and one hundred applications from the nurses at the Royal Victoria and fifty-five from the Montreal General Hospital. The test has been severe, as not only is efficiency required but the nurses must speak French as well as English. They are to have a short course in the military hospital at Quebec, before sailing.

Some of the nurses going with the expeditionary forces have been trained in American hospitals. Among many others may be mentioned Edith Hegan, a graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, and Margaret Dibblee of the Newport Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island.

With the assistance of the St. John Ambulance Association, a complete hospital unit has been sent to Uskub for the use of the Servians. Wounded Servians and Austrians are alike cared for there. It is said that the need in Serbia is urgent.

The Indian Army Medical Service Corps has converted the casino at San Stefano, a seaside resort near Alexandria, into a hospital with 300 beds for Indian native troops. Three hundred will be added each week until the total number is 1100.

The Russian hospital railways carriages are said to be far in advance of anything used on the western battle front. They also have bath trains, where the soldiers can obtain hot baths, have their hair cut and be shaved. After the bath they are provided with clean, dry clothing.

A second letter received from Mlle. Luigi in Rheims says in part:

We have suffered much from the bombardment of the fourth of December. The Isolation Pavillion has been destroyed, fortunately no one was killed. The head nurse had just time to hurry everyone down to the cellar near the central boiler. Some of the shells destroyed our bakery and the nurses' rooms which had already been bombarded five times. The poor nurses are still camping in every corner they can find on the ground floor, in the underground cellars, etc. I have made them bring down their beds. How one gets used to everything. They take things philosophically! I always have some wards in the cellars filled with patients. It is gloomy and unhealthy! Just think! the town has been bombarded every day for more than four months. Around the hospital, within a radius of thirty yards, nearly a hundred shells have fallen. Acknowledge that one must not be very nervous to stand it and the French get the credit of being nervous!

Very little has been heard directly from the nurses in Servia. We give extracts below from a letter written by one of the second unit of Red Cross nurses sent to the president of her own alumnae association. We believe that when the Red Cross nurses return we shall hear more of the practical than of the romantic side of the work.

We arrived here three weeks ago, and began our duties at once. Two weeks before we reached this place, an American doctor with his nurse-wife, arrived from Chicago and took over the care of 2000 wounded. A factory run by the Sultan of Turkey, but abandoned after Servia's victory over the Turks two years ago, had been cleaned and converted into a hospital, or rather a shelter for the men, who were suffering from exposure, hunger and neglect. The big battle in Belgrade had been won and every public building was full of wounded.

Try to picture 2000 lying on beds of straw on the floors of a dark, damp, old shed. Half of the wounded were Austrians. The horrors you must wait to be told!

We have worked hard, and will in another week move to a better building, properly cleaned and white-washed, with a stool here and there, kerosene lamps, with orderlies (plenty of prisoners for that post) and beds for 250 of the acutely ill and seriously wounded. We expect no small pox or cholera until the arrival of warm weather. We have sterilizers, a laboratory and X-ray machine and will be prepared to do a great deal after the style of camp nursing, which differs greatly from that of ——Hospital, which you can easily realize.

Personally, the hardships are not easy to bear. I am selfish and feel keenly the loss of heat, light and other comforts. Water is as precious as alcohol is to the average hospital. We get enough to eat, and have now an army cot and tiny wood stove in our shelter in one of the sheds used by the Sultan as a store-room for the special looms on which silk was made for his harem. All about us are mulberry trees for the silk worms, silk growing being one of the chief industries of the district. Snow-covered mountains close us in from all civilization, and we are totally ignorant of the doings of the great world. I have had no news yet from the United States, though, I suppose, letters have been sent. The letters just don't get through. The mail and news I really pine for—all the rest is what I expected, and even better, for we are safe and get food. The uncertainty was once a bit thrilling; you know the terrors we anticipate are often worse than the realities